



Wildflower Planting

We cannot wait to see the transformation of Low Ackworth Village Green, Carr Bridge, Ackworth Cemetery and Low Ackworth triangle now that the Meadow Glint wildflower seeds have been sown by First Impressions Plant Nursery and Garden Centre.

There are a mixture of perennials and annuals and should produce a good display throughout the summer and up to September/October.

A huge thank you goes to S&D Landscapes for the ground preparation work at no cost to the parish council, as a gesture of goodwill to the village.



Ackworth Gala 2021 Sadly, due to ongoing coronavirus restrictions the annual gala scheduled for 26 June 2021 has had to be cancelled. The decision was taken based on additional covid-19 risk assessment requirements which included crowd management, limiting numbers to the event, and track and trace of all attendees. The possibility of hosting an event in September will be investigated and further details will be discussed at the next meeting of the Village Events Committee in June.



Pumpkin Event 2021

The event will go ahead (Covid-19 restrictions allowing).

Pumpkin seeds will be made available from the Parish Council office from Monday 26 April 2021 between 9am - 2pm, for the local children who would like to take part.

Registration for this event is required, giving your name and contact details via

2021 Sunflower Planting

Sunflower seeds will be left at the following locations for you to collect at your convenience:

- *High Ackworth - Parish Council noticeboard
- *Low Ackworth - Parish Council noticeboard
- *Bell Lane - Community Centre noticeboard
- *Brackenhill - Allotments (on the gate)

VANDALISM IN OUR VILLAGE

Sapling at Carr Bridge



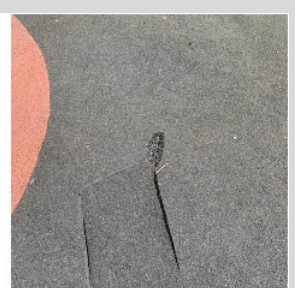
Carr Bridge Pavilion



Bell Lane car park



Brackenhill Play Area



LITTER

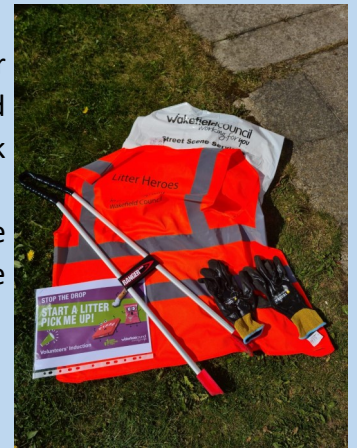
There are some fabulous residents in our community regularly volunteering their time litter picking. Supported by the parish council workforce who collect and dispose of the rubbish collected, they make our village a beautiful place to be, walk around and enjoy. Thank you to every one of you, you know who you are!

WMDC are currently running their 'Stop the Drop' campaign, which aims to raise awareness for those that wish to help the community do more to help to keep the village looking cared for. An example of the litter picking kit is shown on the right.



<https://www.wakefield.gov.uk/anti-social-behaviour/stop-the-drop?>

<https://wakefield.us4.list-manage.com/subscribe?u=50c24ba1eade1e744b8f1e3a2&id=ae24593cfd>



Bird Boxes and Bug Hotels

Ackworth residents Carole Marsh, Claire Lake and Parish Cllr John Bell have been out and about attaching 18 bird boxes and 12 bug hotels to sites owned by Ackworth Parish Council: Carr Bridge, High Ackworth Green, Low Ackworth Community Centre, Parish Rooms car park, Brackenhill Playground and Ackworth Cemetery.



The boxes were bought with monies raised by the Ackworth Advent Windows event, held over Christmas 2020. We hope to continue this scheme, and to include bat boxes in future. This will hopefully include the "Old Holes Quarries" site when we are gifted the land from Strata Homes at the end of the year.

We are delighted to add that the boxes have seen 'nesting activity' and are being monitored by the community members.



Mayor Says Thanks Recognition Award

District Councillor Jessica Carrington nominated Lindsey Woodhall and Gina Woodhall, two of the local 'posties' that cover Ackworth, for their continuous hard work throughout Covid-19. Councillor Charlie Keith, Mayor of Wakefield presented Lindsey and Gina with their reward and thanked them for continuing the postal service throughout Covid-19.



Lindsey and Gina said "we are delighted to have been nominated and to receive this award, it has given us a real boost".

Contacting the Parish Council office

Office opening hours are Monday to Friday 10am to 12 noon or by appointment.

For questions, compliments or criticisms about the work of the Parish Council or if you would like clarification on what we do, then please contact us in one of the following ways:

Email: info@ackworthparishcouncil.gov.uk

Colliery Tub

To mark the importance of mining and miners to Ackworth's heritage, the Parish Council have agreed to purchase a coal tub to be used as a planter (similar to that shown here).

This will be set on rails near to the site of Ackworth pit which was working from 1912 until 1985; a tribute to, and reminder of, the many within our village who were part of the coal mining community.

Sourcing these is proving a little trickier than anticipated, which has delayed the project, but we won't be giving in anytime soon!



Good news from Harpin's—Ackworth Garden Centre

The Parish Council entered the Garden Renovation Project run by Harpin's and whilst we didn't win, Harpin's decided to gift a wildlife and herb box to the Low Ackworth Community Garden because they were so pleased with the idea of a community garden for everyone to enjoy.

The cold weather has meant delayed arrival, but it is hoped it won't be too much longer before the plants arrive.

Renewed Ackworth Parish boundary signs

(The millstones are remaining)

New, like for like signs are to be fitted on the millstones.

In addition to these, it has been agreed that new boundary signs will be installed. The design to be agreed at the next parish council meeting.



Local Elections 6th May 2021

Following the recent election results we can now welcome Raymond Massey— Conservative, who replaces Martyn Ward—Labour and is your 3rd District Councillor for Ward 1 Ackworth, North Elmsall, Upton.

It is the role of your district councillors to serve you, the electorate who voted for them. They are your first port of call for issues/queries you may have that come under the responsibility of WMDC.



Councillor Miss Jessica Carrington
Labour
Email: jcarrington@wakefield.gov.uk
Tel: 07770 533 848



Councillor Mr Alan Garbutt
Labour
Email: agarbutt@wakefield.gov.uk
Tel: 01977 780742

Further details of your District Councillors can be found at www.wakefield.gov.uk/councillors-and-mayor/find-your-councillor

CHAIR'S ANNUAL REPORT 2020-21

The last twelve months have been very difficult for everyone, however we must celebrate the way that the people of Ackworth have come together, both publicly and privately, to help each other and to make life a little better for all of us.

Ackworth Covid-19 Response

In March 2020 A volunteer system, coordinated by Ackworth Parish Council, Ackworth Churches Together and Ackworth School, was set up to offer assistance to Ackworth residents. The response from volunteers was magnificent. Community initiatives such as the scarecrow festival, the advent windows and the 'Covid snake' brought people together when circumstances were keeping us physically apart. From late March 2020 the Parish Council has not been able to hold in-person meetings and the Parish Council premises had to be closed for public activities, however work has gone on via virtual meetings, with the Parish Council staff team continuing to come in to work, with safety measures in place. Several community events normally organised by the Parish Council had to be cancelled. The Parish Council has continued to be active with the following initiatives:

- Climate targets have been agreed and a climate change action plan has been prepared.
- Nineteen new trees have been planted.
- Wildflower seeds are being sown in prepared areas through the village.
- Three new benches have been installed.
- New village boundary signs are being prepared.
- Improvements at the cemetery include new sections of footpath and repairs to the boundary wall.

Old Holes Quarry

The Parish Council is making preparations for the development of land off Green Lane, known as Old Holes Quarry which will be handed over by Strata homes in the near future. The land will be an environmental and leisure resource for the whole community.

Road Safety

Following many years of lobbying by the Parish Council we welcome the proposed changes to the A628 High Ackworth to Pontefract Road designed to reduce serious accidents.

The Parish Council carried out a public consultation of residents on the proposals for a South Featherstone Link Road that were included in Wakefield Council's Draft Local Plan.

And finally...

Thank you to the councillors who put in a lot of unseen and unrecognised time in meetings and other activities for the Parish Council, making sure that proper, responsible decisions are made so that the business of the Parish Council can be carried out, the facilities maintained and managed, and new initiatives developed.

And, of course, thank you to the committed team of Parish Council staff who have continued working, also often unseen and unrecognised, for the benefit of the village throughout this difficult year.

Please see the full report on the website. www.ackworthparishcouncil.gov.uk

Click on *Your Council*, drop down menu click on *Your council*, scroll down right hand side, click on *Annual Parish Assembly—Chairman's report*.